

APR 30 2012

United States District Court  
Western District of North Carolina

U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF NC

3:12 MC - 66

IN RE: Appointment of a  
Merit Selection Panel to  
consider the Reappointment  
Of U.S Magistrate Judge  
Dennis L. Howell

**ORDER**

This matter is before the court on its own motion to designate individuals to serve as a Merit Selection Panel for the purpose of considering the reappointment of the Honorable Dennis L. Howell as a United States Magistrate Judge for the United States District Court, Western District of North Carolina.

Pursuant to Section 6.03 of the "*Selection, Appointment, and Reappointment of United States Magistrate Judges*" published by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, revised March 2010, the court must establish a Merit Selection Panel (Panel) to assist the district judges in their determination to reappointment an incumbent magistrate judges.

The Panel, being composed of nine members, including two lay persons, is to consider and review the incumbent's performance in office as a magistrate judge and consider comments received from members of the bar and the public, and any other pertinent evidence as to the incumbent's good character, judgment, legal ability, temperament, and commitment to equal justice under the law. An interview with the incumbent, interviews with other judicial officers of the bench, and interviews with other agency heads of the federal court family are considered a part of the Panel's charge.

After considering all information, the Panel, unless otherwise directed by the court, must report to the court whether it recommends the incumbent for reappointment to an additional term of office by August 15, 2012. This written report and recommendation is to be provided to the Honorable Robert J. Conrad, Jr., Chief, U.S. District Judge.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the following persons are appointed to the Merit Selection Panel for the United States District Court, Western District of North Carolina.

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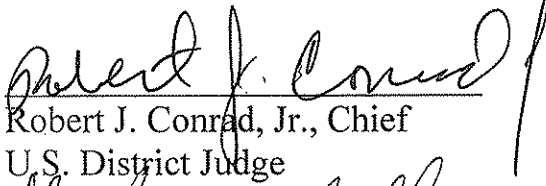
Mr. Larry McDevitt, Chair✓  
Van Winkle Buck Wall Starnes  
PO Box 7376  
Asheville, NC 28802

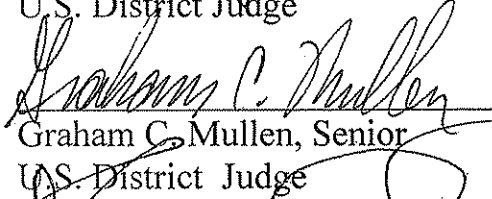
828-258-2991  
[lmcdevit@vwlawfirm.com](mailto:lmcdevit@vwlawfirm.com)

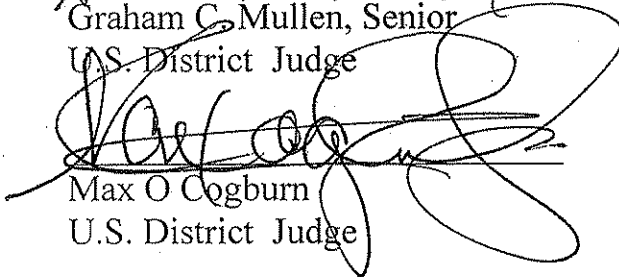
The Merit Selection Panel shall be chaired by Mr. Larry McDevitt who shall work with the other members of the Panel to establish rules of procedure for the panel to follow in accordance with Judicial Conference guidelines and to assure that all confidentiality requirements are met.

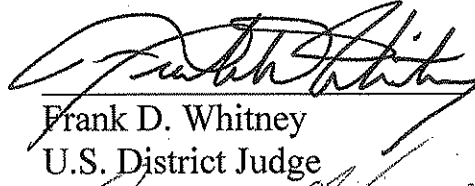
The Clerk of Court is directed to send to each member of the Panel a copy of this Order and a copy of the booklet "*The Selection, Appointment, and Reappointment of United States Magistrate Judges*" and other materials which may be of assistance to the Panel. The Clerk shall also send a copy of this Order to the Magistrates Division of the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts and the Honorable Samuel Phillips, Circuit Executive of the Fourth Circuit.

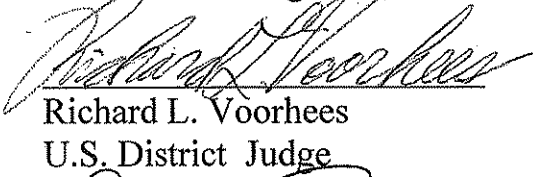
SO ORDERED THIS 18th DAY OF APRIL, 2012.

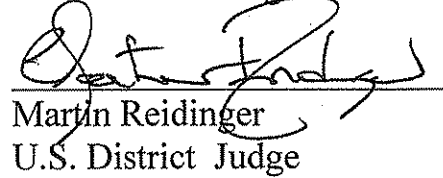
  
Robert J. Conrad, Jr., Chief  
U.S. District Judge

  
Graham C. Mullen, Senior  
U.S. District Judge

  
Max O Cogburn  
U.S. District Judge

  
Frank D. Whitney  
U.S. District Judge

  
Richard L. Voorhees  
U.S. District Judge

  
Martin Reidinger  
U.S. District Judge

bcc: All Magistrate Judges  
All Bankruptcy Judges  
Gregg Forest  
Steve Salata  
Anne Tompkins